

MINUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY AND UINTAH COUNTY
COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING HELD JANUARY 25, 2016 AT 3:30 p.m.
in the Uintah County Conference room, 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah

PRESENT:

UINTAH COUNTY: Commissioners Mark Raymond, Mike McKee and Bill Stringer.

VERNAL CITY: Councilmembers Ted Munford, Dave Everett, Samantha Scott, Travis Allan, and Mayor Sonja Norton.

GUESTS: Josh Bake, Steve Evans, Jordan Mathis, Joel Brown, Matt Cazier, Mark Watson, Troy Ostler, Annie Smith and Jordan Merrill, Aaron Averett.

WELCOME: Commissioner Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING: Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve and acknowledge this meeting. Commission Mike McKee seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 30, 2015: Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of November 30, 2015. Commissioner Bill Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

TRAIL COMMITTEE PRESENTATION: Mr. Jordan Mathis, representing the Ashley Valley Trails Committee, explained that he would like to present why it is important to have an active community. Mr. Mathis displayed specific research for active transportation, showing the benefits to the community including health, economics, business and social impacts. A lot of money is spent on health care and the treatment of chronic diseases that could be managed or adjusted with a more active lifestyle behavior. The highest factor affecting health is tobacco use with the next highest being poor diet and inadequate exercise. Further, research shows this upcoming generation will be the first generation that will not live as long a life span as their parents. There has been a huge increase in gyms in communities, yet the obesity rate continues to climb, proving they have not affected individual behavior. Councilmember Everett noted that the cold prevent people from being active. Ken Bassett stated that technology also affects kids getting out. Jordan Mathis stated that there is the potential for people to have opportunities to use other modes of transportation with most trips being under two miles from their homes. This is a very walkable or bikable distance. Statistics show cyclists are six times healthier than other commuters, and have better mental health. Further, Mr. Mathis stated that people are more motivated to walk or bike if the infrastructure is available to them such as bike lanes along the roadways and connect to important things such as schools. Some areas use traffic calming measures to help with safety. Ken Bassett stated that in Vernal most bikers would rather take another road besides Main Street. Jordan Mathis displayed several examples of areas where roadways were narrowed or had traffic calming measures installed. He suggested that a study be completed first to see what potentially could be done County-wide to increase the health of the community. Examples include a pedestrian plaza, wider sidewalks, landscaped area, traffic calming and trails. One factor that must be considered is safety and how to overcome the

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perception that everyone must use an automobile. Mr. Mathis asked if the elected officials would consider the Chamber's Trails Committee as an advisory board for trails and work toward an integrated master plan for the entire Ashley Valley. Councilmember Ted Munford thanked Mr. Mathis for the presentation and asked for examples of what can be done locally. Jordan Mathis stated they have been working on mapping the area to see what resources are needed to move forward. Troy Ostler noted that the Uintah Transportation District just applied for funding to build a trails master plan through the UDOT TAP program. Ken Bassett expressed concern that there may be a conflict with the City's application for the same type of plan. Commissioner McKee stated there should be a City plan that coordinates with an Ashley Valley plan. The Uintah County Public Lands Committee should also be involved. There was some discussion regarding the TAP program and applications for funding. Troy Ostler explained the Transportation District applied for non-urban funding. Ken Bassett noted that the City applied for small urban funding. Commissioner McKee noted that it would be a stronger application if the requests were combined. Annie Smith asked if any matching funds will be required for this study. She stated that with the community loving their trucks, it will be hard to get support. Also, local businesses need help revitalizing downtown and suggested there be a second part to the advisory group to integrate the type of community the residents want. Commissioner Raymond asked the local agencies to work together so there is no conflict with applications. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he would like to see the Committee bring ideas and suggestions to the elected officials. The elected officials thanked Mr. Mathis for his presentation.

FLOODING CONCERNS – COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Commissioner Mike McKee reminded the elected officials of the flood control plan that was discussed approximately a month ago. There has not been a lot of update since that time. Another meeting has been scheduled to contemplate the flooding issues for the entire community. Commissioner Raymond invited the Mayor and Council to that meeting at 8:30 am the next day. Troy Ostler stated that Glade Allred and Allen Parker will also be attending from the City. Commissioner McKee stated that initially the flood control plan had a cost of \$189 million dollars. Some work has been completed on the bridges and experts have re-evaluated the costs. The hope is to go to the Community Impact Board for funding. Mayor Norton noted that if the canals are piped, that will cause an issue with the storm water and she was glad to see that being addressed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Air Service:

Councilmember Dave Everett asked if there were any updates on air service. Commissioner Mark Raymond replied that the proposal from Boutique Air was accepted by the FAA, and they are working on becoming certified. Once that process is completed, Boutique Air will begin providing service within 60 days.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Councilmember Ted Munford moved to adjourn. Commissioner Mike McKee seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.

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Mayor Sonja Norton

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

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